The entire coastline including that of the islands is covered under the Scheme.

Recommendation No. 17: Fishermen/fisherwomen and their cooperatives may be provided with financial assistance for upgradation and acquisition of larger vessels for marketing and other related activities.

Action Taken: As under Recommendation No. 7 above.

Recommendation No. 18: The Government should give priority to training fishermen/fisherwomen in handling new equipment, larger vessels and new fishing techniques besides fish handling and processing aspects.

Action Taken: The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector Scheme for providing training to fishermen and fisherwomen for skill upgradation.

Recommendation No. 19: Government should take effective steps to tackle the menace of pollutants/ effluents/sewage let out by industries which affects marine life adversely.

Action Taken: The Ministry of Environment and Forests are taking care of this aspect.

Recommendation No. 20: Government should take a decision on the recommendations of the Committee within a period of six months.

Action Taken: Action taken on recommendations are at different stages of implementation.

Recommendation No. 21: The deep sea fishing policy should be revised periodically say every 3-5 years.

Action Taken: An Expert Group has been constituted to formulate a Comprehensive Policy for Marine fisheries.

Emphasis on quality of food items

2327. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need to harmonize domestic standards with international standards as the international trade now is Agricultural goods is increasingly being dominated by concerns of quality to safeguard human health;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take so as to ensure that our agro food processing industry further improve its functioning and pays more attention to hygiene keeping along with high International standards for quality; and

(c) what action is contemplated against companies found defaulters in such violation cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, the Government is aware of the need to harmonize domestic standards with International standards to ensure food quality to safeguard human health.

(b) The Agro food processing Industries are required to comply with provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, the Fruit Products Order, the Milk and Milk Products Orders, the Meat Products Order, the Weights and Measures Order as relevant. To ensure that the Hygiene and food quality of food products is maintained at appropriate standards, the provisions and stipulations of these Orders and Rules are continuously monitored and amended from time to time as required.

(c) Companies which are in default or in violation of any of the provisions of the Acts and Orders mentioned in answer to (b) part of this Question are prosecuted as per the provisions of the relevant Act/ Order.

Production of Flowers

2328. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to increase the production of flowers;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken in Orissa and the eastern State in the development of Floriculture;

(c) whether Government are exporting flowers; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken on that regard in Eighth Plan and target set for Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government of India is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme for the development of